CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
REV. JOHN D. LEE
February 4, 1937 – November 7, 2004

OFFICIATING
REV. DR. LLOYD FARR, PASTOR

HOMECOMING:

NOVEMBER 13, 2004 - 11 A.M.

PILGRIM REST BAPTIST CHURCH
831 SO. 43RD STREET
RICHMOND, CA 94804

OBITUARY

John D. Lee, born to the proud parents of Willie Lee Jr. and Gladys Lee of Lewisville, Arkansas on February 4, 1937. John was the second child of four children from this union, one sister and two brothers.

John came to California early in life, but later had to return to Arkansas so that his father could serve a tour of duty in the Navy. John proved to be an entrepreneur at the age of nine by selling his first crop of cotton in Lewisville, Arkansas.

At the age of twelve, John returned with his family to Richmond, California where he continued his entrepreneurial endeavors. John became a paperboy for the Richmond Independent Newspaper and a mill worker for Goodman Lumber of Marin County.

As a child John united with Providence Missionary Baptist Church, where he was active in the youth department and choir. A few years later he united with St. Peter CME Church where he was a chartered member of the Youth Choir and served as the Youth president of the district NAACP chapter of the Bay Area and Marin. John was a student of Richmond Unified School District. He graduated from El Cerrito High in 1955 and continued on to Contra Costa College where he received his Associates of Arts Degree. John also received several awards for his participation in baseball assisting Contra Costa College in winning the "Big 8" conference both years of his play. After two years of study at Contra Costa College, John transferred to San Francisco State University where he completed a third year of college.

On January 31st, 1960, John united in holy matrimony with Natalie Clay becoming a loving husband, and in 1962 a loving father to the one son born from this union Dell Andre Lee.

On March 20th, 1960, John started a six-year tour of duty with the US Army receiving an honorable discharge in 1963 as an active reserve. From 1959-1968 he was employed as a mail carrier for the U.S. postal service. From 1968 through 1970 he worked as a bus driver for AC transit. While holding a full time position John returned to school carrying a full load at California State University of Hayward earning a 4.0 GPA for two full years. This achievement placed him on the Dean's List and Dean's Honor Roll for the full two years. John graduated with an overall GPA of 3.9 placing him as one of the top three in his field receiving Summa Cum Laude Class of 1970 with a Recreation Major and a Psychology Minor with a core in Mathematics.

The City of Berkeley Recreation Department employed John in 1970 where he achieved the title of Recreational Sports Coordinator/Commissioner of Sports. During his 30 years of outstanding service, John was instrumental in organizing successful programs for both youth and adults.

In line with his dedication and sincerity in his service to people and spirituality John was compelled to serve close to 20 years under the pastoral guidance of Reverend Dr. Lloyd Farr as an Ordained Deacon in 1986 at St John Missionary Baptist Church, of Richmond, CA. He was ordained as a minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ in 1989, he continued his divine service as Assistant Pastor, Dean of Christian Education, Church School, Vacation Bible School Director, and Teacher at New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in Rodeo, CA.

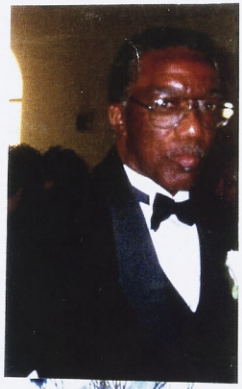
John was called home on Sunday, November 7, 2004, after enduring a courageous fight with cancer. He was preceded in death by both of his parents Willie Lee Jr. and Gladys Lee, two brothers, Vernon Lee and Charles Lee. He leaves to celebrate his life, cherish his memories and carry on his loving works, his wife of 44 years, Natalie Clay Lee, son Dell Andre Lee and adopted son Frederick Clay, all of Fairfield, California. Daughter, Patricia Lee-Young; one sister, Verdell Marshall of Richmond, California, and a host of extended family, relatives and friends.

The countless memories of the laughter and love that John shared with his family and others will be forever embedded in the hearts of those who loved him.

CELEBRATION SERVICES PROGRAM

SUNRISE: FEBRUARY 4, 1937 – ***SUNSET:*** NOVEMBER 7, 2004

PROCESSIONAL		FAMILY
SCRIPTURES	PSALMS 23	REV. ERIC CLAY
	JOB 14: 1-7	REV. O'NEAL YOUNG
	JOHN 14:1-6	REV. OSCAR POWELL
	PSALMS 122	REV. MICHAEL WRIGHT
PRAYER		REV. DR. JAMES R. SPEARMAN
SOLO		SIS. PATRICIA FARR-JOHNSON
RESOLUTIONS		NEW BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH CITY OF BERKELEY BAPTIST MINISTERS UNION OF OAKLAND AND VICINITY
SELECTION		CHOIR
TRIBUTE	FRIENDS:	ROBERT CREER & FREZELL HART NDEDI ETIENNE DEACON WILLIAM LYLES PASTOR SYLVESTER RUTLEDGE
SPECIAL TRIBUTE FROM HIS **"SON"**		BRENDA LYLES
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS		CASSANDRA JUNIEL
OBITUARY		BRENDA LYLES
SELECTION		CHOIR
EULOGY		REV. DR. LLOYD FARR, PASTOR
VIEWING		ROSE MANOR FUNERAL SERVICES



"OUR SONG"

From: John to Natalie

I'VE WATCHED THE SUNRISE IN THE MORNING,
I'VE SEEN THE GRASS ALL COVERED WITH DEW;
I'VE SEEN THE BEAUTY OF A RAINBOW,
BUT, NOTHING AS BEAUTIFUL AS YOU!

I'VE SEEN THE GOLDEN GATES OF SAN FRANCISCO, I'VE SEEN
THE GLAMOUR OF BROADWAY TOO;
I'VE SEEN THE BEAUTY OF A SNOW TOP MOUNTAIN, BUT
NOTHING AS BEAUTIFUL AS YOU!

THE WARMEST OF YOUR SMILE
CAN MELT THE COLDEST HEART,
YOUR CHARM STANDS OUT TOO;
YOUR FACE SHOW THE SWEET LOVELINESS,
IT'S A JOY JUST BEING WITH YOU!

OH, I LOVED YOU SINCE YOU WAS A LITTLE GIRL,
AND WE GREW UP IN THE SAME LITTLE TOWN TOO;
BUT ONLY THE LOVE THAT'S IN MY HEART BABY,
IS AS BEAUTIFUL AS YOU!

THERE'S A BEAUTY IN YOUR WALK,
THERE'S A BEAUTY IN YOUR TALK,
THERE'S A BEAUTY IN YOUR SIGH,
THERE'S A BEAUTY IN YOUR SMILE!

BUT ONLY THE BEAUTY I CARRY IN MY HEART FOR YOU,
IS AS BEAUTIFUL AS YOU!

I LOVE YOU!

Song by:
Johnnie Taylor

SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO MY FATHER

By Dell Lee

This does not come easy, however, when I think of the many things that my father meant to me, I have no other choice but to express my love and sincere feelings for my Dad.

As a child he was the disciplinary dad. A man who spoke words I sometimes did not understand. He said things to me that I use to wonder and think about. As a child I sometimes wrote those words off. I would say to myself, he's crazy he doesn't know what he is talking about, that can't be so!

That was my childlike understanding. Little did I know those words he spoke were like rays of sunshine to a flower. You need those rays to grow from a seedling to a flower or from a child to a Man.

It's funny since I made the transformation from child to man. All those rays shaped me into who I am. All the words that I once did not understand now have meaning. When I open my mouth to speak now those same words of wisdom come from my mouth.

Without my knowledge, he gave me the pieces to life's puzzle in his words of wisdom. The words that helped me become the man I am today.

Now I would like to take this time to say thank you for those rays of sunshine you bestowed upon me. I would like to let you know. I no longer see you as Daddy the disciplinarian, but as Dad my best friend.

You were the one person in my life who never let me down. Whatever I asked of you, you were there to assist in making it right. In that soft spoken, man of few words, profound way that was John Lee.
I love you Dad.

Your Son,
Dell A. Lee

23rd PSALMS

The Lord is my Shepard; I shall not want
He maketh me lie down in green pastures
He leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul.
He leadeth me in the path of righteousness
for His name's sake
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for
Thou art with me.
Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the
presence of mine enemies: thou anointest
my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the
house of the Lord forever.

God Saw

God saw you getting tired
and a cure was not to be
so he put his arms around you
and whispered
Come to Me
with tearful eyes we watched you and
saw you pass away.
and though we loved you dearly,
we could not make you stay.
A golden heart stopped beating
hard working hands were put to rest
God broke our hearts to prove us
He only takes the best.

Heaven and earth shall pass away, but
my word shall not pass away...
- Matthew 24:35

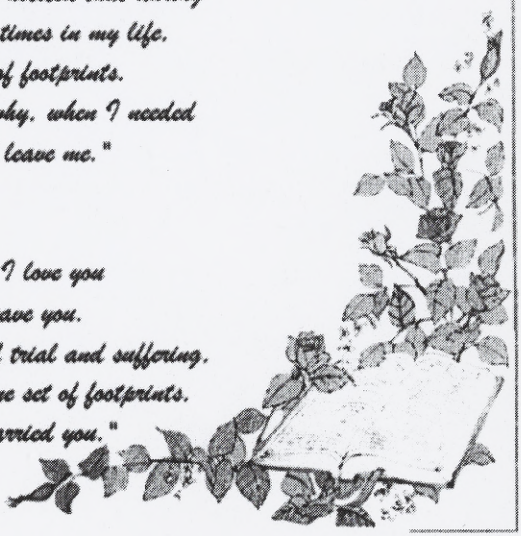
Footprint In The Sand

One night a man had a dream.
He dreamt he was walking with the Lord.
Across the sky flashed scenes of his life.
For each scene, he noticed two sets of
footprints in the sand: one belonged to him,
and the other to the Lord.

When the last scene of his life flashed before him,
he looked back at the footprints in the sand.
He noticed that many times along the path of his
life there was only one set of footprints.
He also noticed that it had happened at the
very lowest and saddest times in his life.
This really bothered the man and
he questioned the Lord about it.

"Lord, you said that once I decided
to follow you, you'd walk with me all
the way. But I have noticed that during
the most troublesome times in my life,
there is only one set of footprints.
I don't understand why, when I needed
you most, you would leave me."

The Lord replied,
"My precious child, I love you
and I would never leave you.
During your times of trial and suffering,
when you see only one set of footprints,
it was then that I carried you."



ACTIVE PALLBEARERS

ROBERT CREER
BILL HORTON
TIRIAN CLAY
KENNY DANIEL
BOOKER EMERY, JR.
JOHNNY EMERY

HONORABLE PALLBEARERS

FRED CLAY
REGGIE R. MULDER
CHARLES E. LEE
LINEAR HALL
DAVID WILLIS
REV. ERIC CLAY
MICHAEL JONES
ROBERT CREER
FREZELL HART
CHRISTOPHER FARR
ERNEST L. CLAY
OMAR GEISINGER
MICHAEL LEE
FRANK E. MARTIN, JR.
ONEAL YOUNG
KENNY DANIEL
CLARENCE JONES
EARL CREER
DARYL RICHARDSON
JAMES FARR

In Appreciation

The Lee Family would like to thank each and every one of you for taking time out to be here today. For those of you who were not able to be here we know we received our strength from your prayers and your condolences. We truly appreciate your love and concerns. Since we know that one soul has brought together this entire congregation of loved ones, then we know we can rest assured that John's life has all been worthwhile.

Thank you for your love...
The Lee Family

Funeral Arrangements Entrusted to:

Stewart's Rose Manor Funeral Service
3331 MacDonald Avenue
Richmond, CA 94805
(510) 235-9143

Program by: AMOR Enterprises ~ 3205 Lagunita Circle ~ Fairfield, CA 94533 ~ (707) 422-9068